

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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MAY DAY

POWER TO THE WORKERS!



BROOKLYN



MEXICO



CHICAGO

The following is an excerpt of the speech that'll be given on May Day in Flatbush, Brooklyn on April 29.

Happy May Day to the international working class!

May Day is that day! The working class's international holiday. It's the day when workers from across the globe commemorate our triumphs, propelled by a vision of a world without capitalist exploitation and borders, run by the working class.

On May Day Progressive Labor Party (PLP) gathers its forces under one flag, the red flag, of communist revolution.

A communist society means one that is

run by the working class and serves the working class—free of money, wages, bosses, and exploitation.

May Day is that day! The day in the year when we remember, celebrate, re-dedicate and affirm our determination to fight for a world full of potential. A world where our children can grow up and bask in creativity and curiosity, but most of all to be fighters in a world where they look out for each other. A world where workers are fed, housed, challenged, and loved, that world is communism.

This rotten, decaying, vile system of capitalism that we currently live under does its very best to pit workers against each other. Ultimately leading us to choose sides in their

wars for profit. We can't let the bosses win. We must unite to smash imperialist war with communist revolution. May Day is that day!

Capitalism in crisis

Since last May Day, it's been another year of mass attacks on our class. The imperialists ruling the U.S, Russia and China are firing what could be the opening shots of World War III, and preparing our working class youth to be food for their missiles.

If you're in Ukraine, the bosses tell you workers in Russia are responsible for the war. If you're in Russia, the bosses tell you workers in Ukraine are responsible for the war.

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

KKKapitalism kills kids, Communism means death to racism!

Under capitalism, it is no crime to shoot an unarmed Black man 46 times as he tries to run for his life. That was the law laid down by a grand jury in Akron, Ohio, which refused to charge the eight kkkops who assassinated 25-year-old Jayland Walker last June. It was one more outrageous example of how deadly capitalism is for Black workers, and for young Black men and youths most of all. The capitalist bosses use their criminal injustice system to defend racist murder because it serves their interests to divide and terrorize the working class. Only when the working class takes power through communist revolution will all workers have a future to live for.

After chasing Jayland Walker for the capital offense of a broken taillight, the cops in Akron cornered him on foot in a parking lot and gunned him down with nearly one hundred bullets. The grand jury’s despicable failure to hold these murderers accountable exposed how young Black workers are blamed for their own assassinations at the hands of the state.

Racist terror epidemic

After mass uprisings in 2020 in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd, many workers desperately hoped that capitalism could be reformed to the point where Living While Black would no longer be a crime. But Jayland’s killing proves once again that as long as we allow the profit system to exist, the capitalist rulers will keep siccing their racist mad dogs on Black and Latin and immigrant workers. Once the bosses diverted the reform movement to defund the police into the election campaign for Jim Crow Joe Biden, the liberal politicians flipped, as usual, to serve their capitalist masters. Despite the fact that the U.S. murder rate fell last year and remains far below what it was in the 1980s and ‘90s (USA Today, 1/26), the bosses are using a trumped-up “crime wave” to pour more money into police terror and put more cops on the streets.

The results? In 2022, at least 1,176 workers and youth—a record high--were slaughtered by the cops. Fewer than a third of these killings involved even an alleged violent crime. The lynching of Jayland Walker was no aberration. Nearly one hundred murders-by-cop involved traffic violations; nearly four hundred involved people fleeing—workers mostly shot in the back. And 24 percent of these victims were Black workers and youth, nearly double their proportion in the general population. Over the last ten years, Black residents were three times more likely to be killed by cops than white residents. In Chicago, the rate was 25 times higher; in Minneapolis, where George Floyd was killed, 28 times higher (The Guardian, 1/6).

Capitalism can’t exist without racism

The capitalist ruling class needs the racism that empowers cops to criminalize, dehumanize, and murder Black workers. They count on the terror that these armed-to-the-teeth mercenaries unleash on the most exploited sections of the working class. For hundreds of years, the U.S. bosses have reaped obscene profits from the unpaid labor of enslaved workers and from the wage slavery in their factories and fields. Today, as capitalism worldwide spirals into crisis, hard-won gains by the working class – led by Black workers and the communist movement – are quickly disappearing. While low wages and a lack of affordable housing or decent health care are scourges that plague the entire working class, they fall hardest on those targeted by capitalist racism and sexism. The median wage of Black workers is 20 percent lower than that of white workers (lending tree.com, 2/7). For Black women, the

difference is 46 percent (AAUW.com). The official unemployment rate for Black workers is 60 percent higher than for white workers (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4/7).

To justify their system’s terror and racist inequalities, the capitalists trot out their tired old lies about Black workers, and particularly about young Black men. The bosses’ more openly racist faction, now fronted by the Republican Party, explicitly courts the allegiance of the likes of Andrew Lester, the racist vigilante in Kansas City who shot 16-year-old Ralph Yarl for ringing the wrong doorbell. But the liberal Democrats are also eager to convince workers to fear and scapegoat one another and to rely on the bosses for protection. Black mayors like Eric Adams in New York and Karen Bass in Los Angeles are leading the push to put more killer cops on the streets (LA Times, 4/18).

These misleaders and apologists are appealing to workers made cynical by the chronic failures of capitalism. Their job is to deceive our class into trusting that the problems in their neighborhoods—drug abuse, homelessness, gang violence—can be solved by the very same capitalists who created those problems in the first place.

Profits, war, and fightback

Workers in Akron and Kansas City are right to be taking to the streets, marching shoulder to shoulder, demanding change. They are joining a wave of working-class anger simmering across the globe. From France and Britain to Canada and South Korea, workers are rising up and fighting back. Miiitant protesters against Amazon and Adidas are calling out the billionaires who exploit our class from Seattle to Southeast Asia. Though the working class is not yet organized, not yet confident in its own enormous power, many are seeing that capitalism is an abject failure. The more we unite with each other to confront the bosses, the more confidence we build in our class.

At the same time, we must understand that capitalism cannot be fixed or reformed to serve workers’ needs. As a system driven by maximum profit, it must constantly lower labor costs. But as the working class becomes more impoverished, we cannot buy what the bosses need to sell. This basic contradiction fuels the inter-imperialist competition for resources and markets that will inevitably lead to the next global war. As the capitalists gear up for that conflict, they will need workers’ allegiance more than ever. As their crisis deepens, they will be forced to drop the mask of liberal democracy in favor of open fascist terror. The racist violence the bosses are now directing at Black workers is a reminder of what lies in store for all of us. The capitalists will stop at nothing to try to save their rotten system.

The bosses’ greatest fear is that the working class—armed with multiracial unity and the bold leadership of Black workers within a communist party—will transform the reform struggle against racism into a fight for communist revolution. The hard fact is that the working class has no need for capitalism or its bosses. Even if Jayland Walker’s killers had been indicted, like the murderers who killed George Floyd, we would all too soon be mourning another lost brother or sister. Under capitalism, the bosses need cops to keep them in power and sustain their profit system. Under communism, the working class will organize society to enable us to look out for one another. With no ruling-class parasites to protect, no exploitation to enforce, we’ll have no need for cops. Fight for communism! Join Progressive Labor Party! Power to the working class!✊

Chicago: ‘System is violent, we will not be silent’



Smash reactionary capitalist violence with communist revolution

CHICAGO, April 7 – Communists from Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined with a multiracial crowd of dozens of workers and youth to organize against capitalist-caused gun violence. The occasion was an annual “Peace Walk” on the city’s northwest side, organized by various faith groups and mass organizations.

The physical and emotional trauma unleashed upon workers who are victims of gun violence is horrifically profound and wide-reaching. For many Black and Latin workers particularly, living in neighborhoods that have been systematically neglected by the city’s racist liberal mis-leadership, the damage cannot be understated.

But whatever amount of violence is committed by workers against other workers, it pales in comparison to the poverty and violence inflicted on our entire class by the racist and sexist capitalist bosses every day. Rather than relying on one set of fascist bosses to “protect” us from another set of fascist bosses, PLP calls on workers everywhere to build a mass revolutionary movement that overthrows our common oppressors and constructs a communist world where all workers are given an opportunity to thrive.

Revolutionary versus reactionary violence

The action began at the front of a local church known for social-justice organizing. A handful of speakers addressed the crowd, including those who had personally lost loved ones to gun violence. Different proposals were put forward during the speeches on how to address the violence, including praying more, pushing politicians to pass stricter gun laws, and finding ways of building community and mental health treatment among neighborhoods.

In the absence of a revolutionary communist outlook, many well-intentioned efforts from workers can get funneled into treating just the symptoms

of this sick profit system and not attacking it at the root. At their worst, many of the reform campaigns pushed by the liberal Big Fascist wing of the U.S. ruling class can lead to gun laws that get enforced in racist ways and result in more criminalization and incarceration of Black and Latin workers.

To sharpen the political tone, a PLP member made a sign that read “A violent system breeds more violence – Let’s build a collective world” which was met with agreement by many in attendance. We also distributed at least ten copies of CHALLENGE newspaper to help connect this struggle to the wider international movement against capitalism with its deadly competition and wars for profit.

As communists, it’s important to make it clear that we are not pacifists – but there is a legitimate difference that must be made between reactionary violence and revolutionary violence. Reactionary violence is that violence inflicted by the bosses and the kkkops and militaries that they control to prop up their decadent system. This reactionary violence is also unfortunately used by many workers who sometimes choose to mimic the capitalist bosses to attack and prey on our own class.

On the contrary, revolutionary violence is organized force wielded by the masses under communist leadership to overcome the oppressive capitalist forces. It is ultimately what will be necessary to do away with a system that crushes so many workers and our potential every single day. Destroying capitalism is our proposal to end gun violence!

KKKops and bosses are the real gangsters

During the walk portion of the event, we were disgusted by the presence of two kkkop escorts from the racist Chicago Police Department (CPD). Although some of the marchers might be won to the idea of the cops keeping our class safe, the reality couldn’t be further from the truth – CPD is by far the biggest gang in the city!

To protest their presence, a PLP member quickly listed a number of names of Black and Latin youth gunned down by CPD in recent years and waved it in killer cops’ faces. The list included LaQuan McDonald, Rekia Boyd, and Adam Toledo. We can expect no peace while the klan-in-blue are given free rein to stalk and terrorize our class for the benefit of their capitalist masters.

We were quick to point out to our friends at the event that it’s impossible to expect a city to take care of its youth when over one-third of the annual Chicago budget is spent on the kkkops (The Civic Federation, 6/23/20). This mind-blowing amount doesn’t even account for the payouts to workers who are victims of police terror, which in itself has amounted to close to \$600 million since 2016 (WGN, 4/3).

What’s all the more telling for us workers is that all these attacks have been going on for decades with the open consent of Chicago’s Big Fascist (see Glossary, page 6) liberal leadership. New Black progressive Mayor Brandon Johnson – who predictably walked back previous claims to defund the police during his campaign – will not alter this trend. A capitalist system that is rocked by crisis has no choice but to resort to more fascist violence against workers, and all politicians back capitalism at the end of the day.

Join PLP for working-class power and collectivity

Imagine a society where all youth and workers were given the resources and means to contribute to the wellbeing of society, free of cost. Where youth engage in learning and collective action to shape society based on their interests, and practice pro-worker means of resolving conflict among ourselves. It’s not a pipe dream; it’s an egalitarian communist society! For all of us who truly want a world of peace among all working people, we invite you to join and help build PLP today.

International May Day Greetings

Colombia: ‘break the chains!’



Workers, comrades and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP), we send you all a revolutionary greeting from Colombia. We are getting ready to commemorate the international day of the working class, a day on which millions of workers around the world will march remembering their history of struggle against the exploitation inherent in the capitalist system and its disastrous consequences for the workers, who have been alienated by the search for profit maximization.

The intensification of the contradictions between big and small fascists in Colombia has

shown that the bosses' democracy is a retrograde and corrupt system that does not work for the benefit of the proletariat, which is why it must be destroyed by workers' power. It cannot be reformed.

Capitalism has created a world where women, men and children die en masse due to poverty, hunger, racist and sexist violence, police brutality and environmental destruction. Unemployment, wage slavery, sexism and war undermine the rebellious consciousness preventing the red flag from waving around the world.

In this way, the revolution will only be possible

with the strengthening of working class consciousness and organizing the struggle through the revolutionary line of PLP, self-criticism being a key element in the process of defeating the dark night.

Our call for the workers of the world is to strengthen our work, being creative, dedicated and dialectical. The road to revolution is long and adverse but possible, even though the enemies of communism and the working class present it as something illusory and outdated.

On this May Day in Colombia, many comrades and friends of PLP will march through the streets of Bogotá, many of them unemployed young people and constant victims of state repression and its policies of misery and hunger. We will be demonstrating our growing interest in defeating capitalism with communist revolution.

Everything we do in favor of the communist cause counts, which is why in Colombia we organize ourselves in favor of the confrontations of our class sisters and brothers in their collective struggles, seeking to form new study groups around CHALLENGE and the dissemination of PLP's line.

When the resurgence of fascism becomes imminent, the fight becomes even more urgent. So, our fighting cry is an open invitation to all the comrades of the world to break the chains that capitalism has imposed on us. LET US ALL FIGHT to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat and the arrival of the glorious communist dawn.

Forward working class, let's strengthen PLP and its communist line! ✖

France: ‘one working class, one mass Party’



International Workers' Day, represents a day of unity for the working class, but not as an end in itself. Despite our diversity as an international class—women and men; young and old; workers and students; rural and urban; Black, Brown and white; immigrant and native-born—we should use May Day as a catalyst in our struggle to thwart the will of all the bosses—the worldwide ruling classes and their flunkies. Their aggressive attempts to trample on all the needs and aspirations of workers everywhere will, in the end, fail and capitalism/imperialism will come crumbling down and be replaced by an egalitarian society through the means of communist revolution.

And make no mistake about it: ruling classes

everywhere are becoming more and more aggressive in the race for power, where imperialist war (or war between the imperialists' proxies) would be one of the surest strategies to increase not only their capital but also their control of the world's resources. If we follow the strategies put in place by the bosses, our class will pay the cost: the lives of workers (soldiers and civilians), more racism and sexism, more economic and health misery.

The bosses need to increase social inequality to try to save their crumbling system, while workers need to fight back to stop them. There is no other choice. It's "them" or "us," and we want "us" to be the winners—short-term and long-term—in this struggle.

Rebellion needs communist focus

Workers in France are currently fighting back valiantly against the cutbacks in pension benefits that the rulers need to impose to save their system. Students are fighting side by side with them, against the class enemy, because they know that their own future is in the balance. And we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them as well. But we need to fight for more than reforms of the capitalist system. Reforms won can be taken away if the same capitalist system remains. Yes, we can win this battle but lose the war if we don't fight to rebuild the international communist movement, fight to smash the capitalist tread-mill of reformism once and for all. This is the goal of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP)—one working class, one mass party, all fighting for the same political line!

Our world to win

Solidarity between all comrades, among workers on a planetary scale, is the only way we can win. By building the PLP, we will fight for communism everywhere, following the leadership of the most advanced among us, and fight for the emancipation of our class and transform society on an egalitarian basis.

To our comrades in the PLP and our friends everywhere: Let this May Day be the beginning of a new year of revolutionary struggle on the part of the foes of capitalism and imperialism. To all comrades, current and future: Our struggle against the bosses/ruling class will inevitably lead to a transformation of society on an egalitarian basis. ✖

International May Day Greetings

Haiti: ‘fight for our own class interests’



The following letters are international greetings.



Our Party, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been sending out the alert to the workers of the world that the capitalist, imperialist world needs wars, big and small, as they fight each other to secure their profits. Every day events show that this is real and inevitable. The end of the reign of the U.S. capitalists is not acceptable to the Western imperialists. They are ready and willing to shed every last drop of our blood to keep their power.

The war in Ukraine, for example, is leading to an escalation of economic and financial difficulties throughout the planet. The risk of major conflict in Taiwan is drastically increasing. Meanwhile, the struggle for the riches of the African continent continues to escalate between the Western powers, Russia and China. Alliances shift between countries according to their capitalist interests.

The working class, our class, is the most threatened by the escalation of conflict among the world's bosses. Exploitation, poverty, hunger, lack of free access to clean water and health care, racism and sexism: these capitalist ills are on the rise throughout the world. So, comrades, we must say no to the capitalists' wars for profit. We must shout loudly, "Turn the guns around!" and prepare to fight in our own class interests.

Our war is the war to bring about communist revolution, the war to end once and for all the criminal capitalist system. Our war is the war to save the planet from the destruction caused by the profit system. Our war is to build an egalitarian world free of racism, sexism, and poverty. Comrades, this May Day—and every day—we are organizing workers

wherever we live and work to remind our class that the fate of the world is in our hands, that we must pick up the red flag of communist revolution and foil the capitalists' plans. We must amplify revolutionary struggle.

In this tumult of war, in these moments of uncertainty and torment for the working class, our Party must continue to grow, strengthen and expand. Despite a most monstrous level of misery for workers by the criminal bosses and their flunkies, the Progressive Labor Party in Haiti is organizing workers and students to bring them into the Party and to fight for communist revolution. We are in working class communities, involved in struggles big and small, to win our class brothers and sisters to understand the roots of the tremendous exploitation they face and why egalitarian communism is the only solution. We are in schools and universities to win students, teachers and campus workers to fight back against the miserable conditions that capitalism has created. Our Party is modest, but our commitment is growing: our confidence in the working class and the Party expands our possibilities. Criticism against practices of the capitalists and the communist solidarity that we struggle to show every day allows us to build trust in the masses and allows the masses to have trust in the Party.



The PLP in Haiti sends you these revolutionary greetings. Let the struggle of the working class and its communist party—the PLP—continue! Let our voices ring out loudly along our marches and in all our May Day events: "Workers of all countries, unite! We have nothing to lose but our chains."✳

Baltimore: Confidence & commitment to our class



PLP flag being hung on a roof pavilion at the May Day dinner space.

BALTIMORE, MD, April 8—With increasing hostilities among the imperialist powers pitting workers against their international class sisters and brothers, our job as communists is to continuously point to international revolutionary struggle as the only reasonable answer. This capitalist system must be destroyed and replaced with an egalitarian communist society run by workers. Twenty-six people, including members (PL'ers) of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), joined at a local park to celebrate the history and significance of the international workers' holiday May Day, and to inform people of upcoming local May Day celebrations.

A custom playlist of revolutionary, pop, hip hop, and R&B songs from the 1950s to the present accompanied the outdoor dinner. People brought food, drinks, and desserts—with jerk chicken and homemade deviled eggs being the highlights of the dinner. One comrade's family member even volunteered to grill burgers and hotdogs. Flags decorated with "Progressive Labor Party" and a triumphant

fist were hung from the roof of the pavilion rented for the day.

Building an army to crush the bosses

Baltimore PL'ers are creating a plan to actively recruit more members, with hopes of doubling our size by May Day 2025. Hosting May Day dinners not only emboldens the newer leadership, but also strengthens the confidence that our working class sisters and brothers have in the Party. We are serious about pushing for a revolutionary transformation of the horrendous kkkapitalist system. Hosting dinners and cadre schools with the focus on connecting our local struggles to capitalist terror and war abroad reflects the commitment we in the Party have to our class in Baltimore and worldwide.

The dinner included a program filled with important talks about current reform struggles against police brutality and attacks against transgender students and workers, who have been heavily

scapegoated and vilified by gutter racists and politicians. Comrades in Kentucky coincidentally led a rally against these sexist attacks on transgender youth and workers the same day. There was also a spoken word piece about the doomed future of youth under a capitalist system and a short comedic play performed by PL'ers. A friend of the Party, who wrote the play, used it as a tool to describe what communism is.

One comrade illustrated her experience working with college peers in a student organization at a predominantly white, liberal arts college. Everyone engaged in the program, listening as PL'ers upheld working class solidarity and gave critical analysis of capitalism's deliberate tragedies and destruction of society.

No money, and no nations

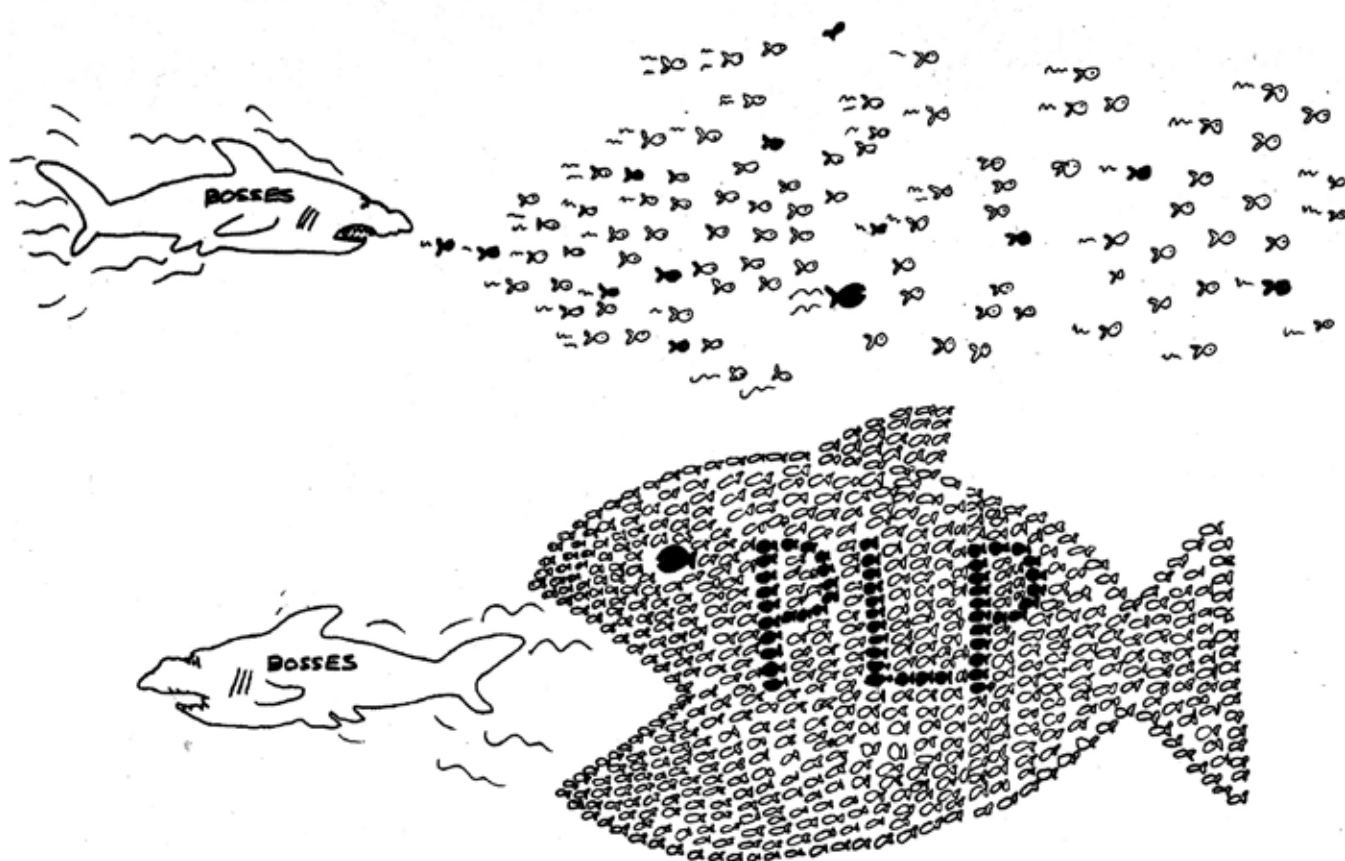
Despite the unpredictably cold spring weather (Maryland isn't known for the smoothest start to spring), everyone enjoyed the company, discussions, and political program. One attendee wrote to a comrade afterward, "I loved reading the PLP paper, and am especially happy about the concept of no money, and no nations."

A previously active comrade came and also encouraged people to attend the May Day rally in Brooklyn. After a few years away from the Baltimore club, her attendance and enthusiasm to hold up our CHALLENGE newspaper was greatly appreciated. One attendee remarked, at the end of the gathering, that he learned a lot more about communism from the program. Comrades from DC and Virginia also came towards the dinner's end, reinforcing our practice of local clubs supporting each other in our area.

As we ramp up our efforts for May Day and summer actions, we remember that our daily actions must be rooted in the workers, since we are the ones with the power to shut the entire system down. Workers know this, have seen this, and it is our responsibility as revolutionaries to ensure that the process is pushed with communism and multiracial leadership at the forefront. Until we win!✳

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



Why do we need the Party?

Strike: ‘we don’t need bosses or their system’

Last week I had the honor of participating in the Rutgers strike. It was great that in the very issue of CHALLENGE newspaper that was being passed out during the strike, there was an editorial on the protests in France which made the following point: strikes show us just a glimpse, just a small window into the panoramic potential of workers’ power when we run the world without answering to bosses. This is the point that should have been the mass line that we spread during the strike, but it was not. Instead, we were so upset and worried at the sellout social democrats who were selling us short at the bargaining table, that we focused instead on pushing for the most radical strike possible as the penultimate show of workers’ power.

When I gave my speech, I should have made the point that striking shows us that we don’t need the bosses or their system. Instead, our strike under capitalism gets turned into a tool for bargaining for more power under the bosses’ system. And while it was an empowering week, inspiring even my colleagues next door at Essex County College (ECC) to become more militant, it did not and does not inherently lead to workers’ power.

It is our job to make that point as often as possible: the bosses need us; we don’t need them. So this is the point I will be continuing to push in my own union, New Jersey Education Association, and with my honest and hard working co-workers. In fact, many ECC full-time faculty teach at Rutgers part time just to make up the difference in our ridiculously low salaries, so we were in fact involved in the strike directly via some of our faculty members. Yes, we salute our fearless and militant colleagues at Rutgers!

We draw inspiration from you and learn the lessons of the victories from that strike—such as folks agreeing to come to

May Day—as well as the pitfalls—such as thinking the most militant strike is the goal of our time and energy. Above all, we are inspired that the strike helps us see the necessity for building Progressive Labor Party and sharpening our fight for a world run by our class—a communist world!

★★★★★

Rutgers strike gave us a chance to talk

The struggle at Rutgers is an important event for the working class to be part of. It gives us the opportunity to talk to our coworkers, friends, and students about the importance of class struggle.

As a high school teacher I discuss the role of unions and strikes in class, but it is actions like this that make it real for high school students. Some of my fellow coworkers joined me at the strike. They began to raise questions of fighting back and organizing within our own union. This led to a larger discussion with a coworker of the limitations of strikes - and more importantly - the dangers of focusing too much on individuals like Rutgers President Holloway while ignoring the larger capitalist system. This was somebody who has been reading the paper for over a year, but it was still hard for him to conceptualize how you build a revolutionary movement while still fighting for reforms. We discussed it more when we went back to school this past week.

Thank you to the Rutgers strikers for creating this opportunity to raise our line of reform and revolution in a period of relatively low class struggle in Newark.

★★★★★

Teacher speaks out vs ‘profit nest’

Schools in Montgomery County need more funding to serve our students. As a teacher in the county, I spoke at a County Council hearing about raising taxes to do this. After hearing dozens of testimonies

about student needs, I decided to change my 3-minute testimony from appealing to the Council and instead blasted them for listening to real estate developers who opposed the tax.

I remembered what a Progressive Labor Party comrade had suggested a few years ago: “You’re talking to the crowd of working class peers and comrades, not the politicians.”

The audience did include many teachers, bus drivers, education support staff, mechanics, public nurses, students and parents. As I spoke to the council, I turned and faced my real brothers and sisters. I asked them if their wages met the median wage in the county.

“No way!” rang out from the crowd!

I pointed out that the county council salaries go way over the median threshold and that there are five billionaires and 2,500 millionaires in the U.S. who could easily fund the needed budget. The County has 21 large real estate and/or construction companies. Are their interests really with keeping taxes low for the immigrant pursuing the “American dream” or the young couple buying their first house? Not at all. They just want to feather their own profit nests!

Here’s a thought: tax the rich to pay for our basic educational needs in the name of antiracist, equitable action and fund our schools.

I have no illusions that the bosses will “take the losses” on their own, but militant struggle to force such changes has a chance!

★★★★★

CHALLENGE: It’s always a win when we can expose the bosses’ profit motive! But, the main-wing U.S. bosses do want their class to “take the losses” to some extent. In addition to exposing the rulers’ limits of reform, it is important to show workers that reforms of “shared sacrifice” and “tax the rich” are all part of the bosses’ fascist war preparations.

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism’s response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They’re willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Defend youth vs sexist laws, expose liberal fascism

MIDDLESBORO, KY, April 7—Members of Progressive Labor Party worked with the Redneck Coalition in organizing an antisexist rally in response to Senate Bill 150 that attacks trans youth. The small but mighty contingent of PLers distributed food and CHALLENGE, and spoke of how transgender workers' struggle is linked to capitalism. A PLP organizer declared that revolution for communism is the only path for liberation. Communism will provide healthcare for all, while eliminating exploitative and sexist gender roles, enabling all working-class people to participate in the labor activities needed for the new society's progress.

Capitalists need gender roles to turn workers against each other and divide our class into hostile camps. They rake in massive super profits from paying women less in the labor market, while at the same time often keeping them shackled to the home and limited to forms of reproductive labor. Gender divisions help the bosses organize society to reproduce future generations of cheap labor and maintain their political power over us.

Capitalism divides

Capitalism, not "transphobia," is to blame for the latest attacks against trans youth. These attacks are a further intensification of divisiveness rooted in a deeply sexist and racist system that thrives on super-exploitation of Black and women workers. This is the same system that prematurely kills hundreds of millions of workers around the world through poverty and a horrifically substandard health care system that is depriving trans workers and youth of gender affirming care. Only a communist system run by the working class can grant us the life affirming care we all desperately need.

Today's rally was specifically in response to the anti-trans legislation (Senate Bill 150) about to pass in Kentucky. Such a law will give teachers the right to misgender students, require doctors to deny gender-affirming care for working-class youth, and prohibit discussions on topics like sexual orientation, sexually transmitted diseases, and more. Attacking the working class based on gender and sexuality divides our natural unity as working people whose labor is exploited. Gutter sexists can only thrive when the society is built on sexism and treating a section of the population as "less than."

In response, we are determined to build working-class solidarity in the resistance to fascism, where all workers can unite to smash this racist sexist capitalist system once and for all.

Distributing event flyers around town and publicizing on Facebook resulted in a strong attendance



at this event, the first of its kind in this area. "When I saw that this was happening, I had to go because I'd never seen anything like this before around here!" said a new attendee.

The Redneck Coalition is made up of anti-capitalist workers from Appalachia who seek to bring the term "Redneck" back to its radical roots, which comes from a history of multiracial struggles of mine workers against company owners in the mountains. The term has been degraded to a negative term for southern white workers, but its original meaning is antiracist militancy against capitalism! (WVpublic.org, 5/18/2015).

PLP and organizers in the Redneck Coalition demonstrated how the fight against racism and sexism must attack their source in capitalist exploitation. Fascism uses lies to get workers to attack each other to keep workers divided. A PLP speaker noted that "trans people . . . make up a disproportionate share of the homeless and unemployed, because capitalism places profit over human decency and human life."

Big and Small Fascists

The entire U.S. ruling class is floundering—economically, politically, and militarily—as China rises and the U.S. hegemony is under siege. In the U.S., there are two main camps of what we call the Big Fascists—representing the more powerful bosses

like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil—and the Small Fascists—represented by domestically oriented U.S. capitalists like the Kochs, Mercer, DeVos.

The Small Fascists are reluctant to spend money fighting wars to defend the global U.S. empire. Their agenda includes a racist gutting of social services at home and a retreat from U.S. imperialist alliances and commitments internationally. This faction is making inroads into winning millions of workers to see the Big Fascists as their enemy. Workers correctly understand that many of their lives have worsened under the leadership of Democrats, but they are allowing themselves to be led by outright racist, sexist, nationalist ideas spread by the Small Fascists. This cynical scapegoating has the effect of misleading and confusing people about their common interests against capitalism as a whole.

Reject all shades of fascism

Still, the Big Fascists present the biggest danger for the working class in the U.S. because their liberal, "antiracist," "antisexist" sounding jargon is pacifying millions by building the illusion that they can create a "nicer capitalism." In reality they are attempting to win us to patriotically fight and die in the name of U.S. imperialism. We need to expose the hypocrisy of the liberal bosses. They are the leaders in attacks on healthcare, from attacking retired workers health insurance to slashing healthcare budgets to refusing to codify Roe vs. Wade.

The rally ended with a call to reject Republican and Democratic politicians because they represent respectively the open gutter racists like Trump and the slippery, dominant, liberal spokespeople for major financial capitalists like Biden. Both are poisonous! The liberal bosses stoke these culture wars for their own cynical purposes. They want to appear as the saviors so they can lead youth into world war.

Instead, building an antiracist, antisexist, internationalist communist movement is the path forward. Such organizing will create a hopeful vision for the future in an isolated area like rural Kentucky often written off by the rest of the U.S. A trans organizer with the Redneck Coalition declared the need for solidarity, saying, "We must build independent political power by and for the working class. If the fascists, like they would prefer, could ban trans people from even getting food at the grocery store, we must be able to feed them."

The better world we require is communism, where we will take care of all of each other's needs. Workers of the world, unite!



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Imperialist conflict explodes in Sudan

France24, 4/23—As gunfire again echoed through Khartoum and fighter jets roared above, foreigners also fled the capital in a long United Nations convoy, while millions of frightened residents hunkered down inside their homes, many running low on water and food. Across the city of five million, army and paramilitary troops have fought ferocious street battles since April 15, leaving behind charred tanks, gutted buildings and shops that have been looted and torched. More than 420 people have been killed and thousands wounded, according to UN figures, amid fears of wider turmoil and a humanitarian disaster in one of the world's poorest nations.

Russia and Ukraine look to Koreas as new sources of weapons

Bloomberg, 4/23—Half a world away from the front line of Russia's war in Ukraine there's a stockpile of probably more than a million artillery shells on the Korean peninsula — a hoard that's drawing attention as South Korea's leader heads to Washington. President Yoon Suk Yeol has indicated his government may be open to changing its policy about providing lethal aid to Ukraine under certain conditions. That would be welcome news for US President Joe Biden, who has been seeking help from partners to ease Kyiv's perennial ammunition

shortage.

The Kremlin has said that if South Korea supplies arms to Ukraine it would make it a participant in the conflict, with former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev suggesting Moscow could respond by selling advanced weaponry to North Korea, according to a Tass report. The Koreans have two of the world's largest artillery forces, with thousands of big guns pointing at each other across the demilitarized zone that separates them. They have stockpiled hundreds of thousands of shells that include North Korean artillery inter-operable with Soviet-era artillery in Russia, and South Korean 155 mm caliber shells, which are the standard used by the NATO countries supplying Ukraine.

Chinese and Russian bosses look to expand military power

Foreign Affairs, 4/12—But the truly significant developments took place during closed-door, in-person discussions, at which Xi and Putin made a number of important decisions about the future of Chinese-Russian defense cooperation and likely came to terms on arms deals that they may or may not make public. The war in Ukraine and ensuing Western sanctions on Russia are reducing the Kremlin's options and pushing Russia's economic and technological dependence on China to unprecedented levels. These changes give China a growing

amount of leverage over Russia. At the same time, China's fraying relationship with the United States makes Moscow an indispensable junior partner to Beijing in pushing back against the United States and its allies. China has no other friend that brings as much to the table.

Workers in United Kingdom spiral deeper into poverty

Der Spiegel, 4/18— As this winter came to an end, more than 7 million people were waiting for a doctor's appointment, including tens of thousands of people suffering from heart disease and cancer. According to government estimates, some 650,000 legal cases are still waiting to be addressed in a court of law. And those needing a passport or driver's license must frequently wait for several months...Recently, a number of chains announced that they would be rationing cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers for the foreseeable future...it is impossible to deny the dismal reality of Blackpool...

The life expectancy of male residents is just under five years below the national average, while that for women is almost four years lower. Almost one in five residents suffers from what local doctors call "shit life syndrome," while anti-depressants are prescribed here twice as often as in the rest of the country. "If you are poor, sick, weak or tired, don't come to Blackpool," ... "Nobody will help you here."

MAY DAY: FIGHT LIKE A COMMUNIST

Continued from page 1

All while the U.S. Media ignores the thousands of Black and Brown children slaughtered in Yemen and Africa during recent wars. As in all imperialist wars, workers have no side in these conflicts. We have no class interest in fighting and dying for the capitalist rulers.

As these imperialist rulers hoard resources to prepare for their next global conflict, workers' health and safety will suffer. To get workers to passively accept more disasters like the floods in Pakistan and Mississippi, and agree to fight in World War III, the capitalist bosses will need increasing fascist repression.

Fascism is capitalism in crisis in preparation for world war. When the bosses' profit system starts breaking down, they become desperate to keep it afloat—at all costs.

It's capitalism that's driving the rise in homelessness and the epidemic of mental health problems. It's capitalism that's forcing millions around the world to flee their homes in the face of war and deadly poverty. The liberal rulers can't reform their way out of these disasters; their system creates them in the first place.

Liberal politicians use the fear of Trump to scare the working class into looking the other way as migrant workers and the homeless are terrorized. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and her fake-left Squad railed against Trump for ripping children from their parents' arms and putting them in cages in Texas. Now these so-called progressives sit on their hands as Biden does the same as Trump and worse. If we let them get away with these outrages today, tomorrow they'll be targeting the rest of our class.

"Lesser evilism," the idea that some bosses are less racist, less sexist, or less profit-driven than others, is a literal "dead end." It's under a democratic president and a Black mayor that 16 year old Ralph Yarl was shot for ringing the wrong doorbell.

Under the leadership of Progressive Labor Party, the international working class must turn the guns around and seize state power. Only then can we guarantee that the work that we do, let me say that again, only then can we guarantee that the work that WE DO serves workers' needs.

Celebrate!

We salute workers across the U.S. who took to the streets to fight back against the police murder of Tyre Nichols in Memphis. We stand in solidarity with Tyre's family and countless names of workers slain by this murderous system. Another heart-breaking death in a city with a Black-led democratic ruling class. Proving once again the shallowness of identity politics that bosses use as a tool to divide us and that reforms don't work. We don't need more Black cops, mayors, or governors, we need a world



run by workers!

Over and again, we see workers saving workers. In Pakistan, workers risked their lives by wading through toxic, deadly flood waters to distribute vital donations.

In Turkey and Syria, thousands of workers and youth are breaking through the border to help other workers after the earthquakes.

Fight for communism

All of these efforts are courageous and essential. But ultimately, they will be futile if we fail to understand that we can save ourselves and our class only by smashing capitalism, the root of all these problems.

Earthquakes will keep happening under communism. But when the working class gains state power, and enforces strict rules for development and building safety, the human toll of these disasters will be far less.

By working together and sharing resources, liberated from the divisions of private property and wage slavery, workers will create a safer, freer world.

We salute comrades fighting back!

Fight like our comrades at Kingsborough Community College who after being attacked by racist campus police bravely led many militant multi-racial marchers through campus forcing those very same cops to shut the campus down.

Fight like our comrades who are fed up with NYC bosses' attempts to cut retired workers' health care benefits.

Fight like transit workers in D.C and Virginia against cuts to benefits and unequal wages.

Fight like our comrade-teacher in Jersey who was fired for encouraging his students to be militant



in the face of racism.

Fight like Carolyn, a lifelong party member who dedicated her life to serving the working class—fighting the KKK in Tupelo, spending the last week of her life volunteering at a soup kitchen, showing up at the courthouse to support the family of Raymond Chalusant, a young worker murdered by a NYC corrections kkkop.

These fightbacks are the bright spots we look to because here, the Progressive Labor Party is active! Here, workers and youth are being won to the only answer to the attacks of capitalism—communism.

Rededicate & Affirm

Today's struggles where the party is active and winning our class to the fight for communism are the seed-bed for tomorrow's participation in mass struggles.

Under capitalism, buildings sit empty while millions are homeless. Food is thrown away as people starve.

The education, healthcare, and transportation systems are failing. A system that cannot feed, shelter, educate, or cure does not deserve to exist.

Under communism, all production will be organized through a communist party to serve the needs of the working class. There will be no profits, no money— and no bloodsucking bosses. Without money to warp our priorities, everybody will be valued. Everyone will be helped to find ways to contribute. The time has come for the working class to say "Enough!" The time to fight for communism is now.

PLP is growing and developing the next generation of leadership. Our international working class needs to build the Red Army that will destroy this entire capitalist hellscape once and for all! We want all of you to join us! May Day is that day! Today is that day!✊

NEXT DEADLINE

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the

Friday night of May 5

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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